

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02

SSO-00 /028 W

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P 252213Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3865

UNCLAS MANAGUA 3495

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (CAMPBELL, ROBERT)

SUBJECT: W/W MISSING AMCIT ROBERT CAMPBELL

REF: (A) STATE 169607; (B) MANAGUA 3448; (C) USCINCSO 231925Z JUL77

1. USCINCSO REPORT (REF C) PROVIDES SUMMARY OF EXTENSIVE USAF EFFORTS IN THIS CASE AND ADDRESSES SPECIFIC QUESTION RAISED BY MR. WITTE ABOUT "DRIFT PATTERN" (REF A, PARA 2), AND TOUCHES ON PIRACY POSSIBILITY. THIS TELEGRAM WILL RESPOND TO THE OTHER POINTS SET OUT IN REF A.

2. NICARAGUAN AIR FORCE SAR CAPABILITY IS NOT EXTENSIVE, BUT RESPONSE WAS QUICK AND POSITIVE. LIGHT, FIXED WING AIRCRAFT BEGAN SEARCH ON JULY 12, AND FLEW OVER 22 HOURS UNTIL FAN EFFORTS WERE SUSPENDED ON JULY 22. FURTHERMORE, NUMBER OF PRIVATE PILOTS ACQUAINTED WITH ALMOND AND CAMPBELL SPENT LONG HOURS VOLUNTARILY SEARCHING NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR COAST LINES. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW SEARCH EFFORTS HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVE AND SEEMS TO HAVE GONE BEYOND ACCEPTED NORMS, ALTHOUGH TO NO AVAIL.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED ACTS OF PIRACY IN NICARAGUAN WATERS FOR MANY YEARS. THE POSSIBILITY OF FOUL PLAY CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE RULED OUT, BUT THE CAMPBELL BOAT IS NOT OF A TYPE IN GREAT DEMAND EXCEPT FOR SPORT FISHING AND WE CONSIDER LIKELIHOOD OF PIRACY IS VIRTUALLY NIL.

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4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT CAMPBELL NEXT-OF-KIN NOTIFIED BY CAMPBELL'S EMPLOYER, ROBERT NATHAN AND ASSOCIATES. THE EMBASSY FIRST LEARNED OF CAMPBELL'S POSSIBLE DISAPPEARANCE ON JULY 12, WHEN BRITISH PARENTS OF JOSEPH ALMOND (WHO IS NICARAGUAN) ADVISED CONSUL THAT THEIR SON HAD SET OUT ON JULY 9 WITH CAMPBELL AND A NICARAGUAN GIRL ON A PLEASURE FISHING TRIP FROM SAN JUAN DEL SUR, FISHING

VILLAGE ON NICARAGUA'S SOUTH-WEST COAST AND HAD NOT RETURNED WHEN EXPECTED ON JULY 10. ALMONDS COULD ONLY IDENTIFY CAMPBELL, WHOM THEY HAD NEVER MET PERSONALLY, AS FRIEND OF THEIR SON AND AN AMCIT WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING WITH THE NICARAGUA TOURISM BUREAU. EMBASSY RECORDS WERE CHECKED AND NO REGISTRATION BY CAMPBELL WAS FOUND. ON JULY 13, DOROTHY HOOKER OF ROBERT NATHAN ASSOCIATES, WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE CALLED CONSUL INQUIRING ABOUT CAMPBELL. CONSUL TOLD HOOKER THAT SEA-AIR RESCUR EFFORTS HAD BEEN INITIATED AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST. HOOKER ADVISED CONSUL THAT CAMPBELL RESIDED IN NICARAGUA ALONE. ON JULY 14, JOHN BYER OF NATHAN ASSOCIATES SPOKE BY TELEPHONE WITH CONSUL, WHO ADVISED HIM THAT SEARCH WAS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE THROUGH JULY 15. SINCE SEARCH WAS NEGATIVE TO THIS POINT, CONSUL ASKED BYER FOR NOK IDENTIFICATION. BYER TOLD CONSUL THAT CAMPBELL LIVED ALONE IN MANAGUA AND THAT FIRM PREFERRED NOT TO NOTIFY CAMPBELL'S MOTHER, WHOSE ADDRESS BYER HAD, BECAUSE SHE WAS ELDERLY AND BYER DID NOT WISH TO ALARM HER UNDULY. FYI: WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED (JULY 21) FROM THEODORE WILDE OF ROBERT NATHAN ASSOCIATES THAT CAMPBELL HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY LOST AT SEA ON PAST OCCASIONS AND THAT THE FIRM'S OFFICERS WERE RELUCTANT TO OVER-REACT TO THIS LATEST REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE. END FYI. THAT SAME DAY, JULY 15, BY MANAGUA 3334 EMBASSY REPORTED CAMPBELL'S DISAPPEARANCE TO STATE DEPARTMENT AND IDENTIFIED ROBERT NATHAN ASSOCIATES AS SOURCE OF NOK INFORMATION FOR DEPARTMENT'S USE.

6. EMBASSY IS IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH GON ELEMENTS DIRECTLY, THROUGH DEFENSE ATTACHE AND USMILGP. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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ADVISED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE AS THEY OCCUR.
RUBENSTEIN

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NNN

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Decaption Note:
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